

Aruba's kite flying tradition



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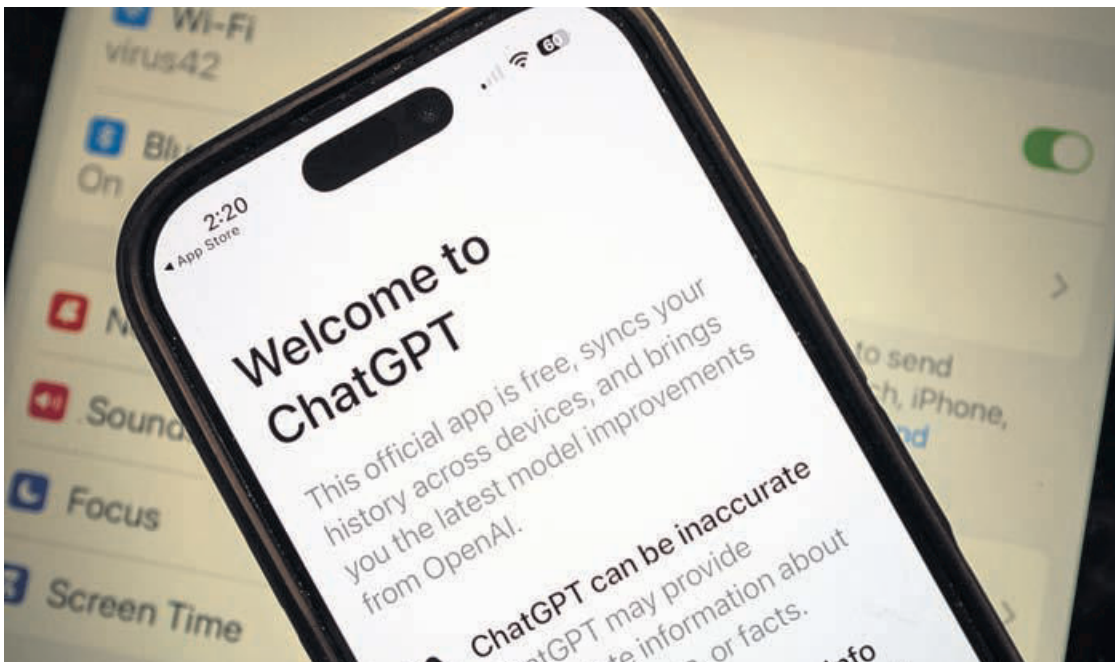
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The ChatGPT app by OpenAI is shown on a cell phone on March 03, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois.

ChatGPT's taste for literary nonsense sparks alarm

Paris, France

OpenAI's GPT models can often be fooled into declaring that "pseudo-literary" nonsense is great, a German researcher has found. Christoph Heilig said he discovered that they consistently rated "nonsense" higher including when their so-called "reasoning" features were activated which could have stark implications for the development of artificial intelligence.

"It's very important that we talk about what happens when we don't build AI as a neutral, robotic helper or assistant" and seek to instil human-like aesthetic and moral judgements, the academic at Munich's Ludwig Maximilian University told AFP.

His research presented the models with increasingly far-fetched variations of a simple text, asking them to rate sentences out of 10 for literary quality.

He started with a very simple text: "The man walked down the street. It was raining. He saw a surveillance camera."

He repeated the tests many times, altering the phrases to include words drawn from categories such as bodily references, film noir-style atmosphere and technical jargon.

The most extreme test phrases were almost total "nonsense", such as "Goetterdaemmerung's corpus haemorrhaged through cryptographic hash, eschaton pooling in existential void beneath fluorescent hum. Photons whispering prayers" which it rated highly.

"Nonsense" could also positively or negatively influence GPT's responses when it was added to an argument the AI was asked to evaluate.

"What my experiment definitely shows is that the more we move towards independently acting (AI) agents... the more we bring aesthetics into play, the more we'll have agents that seem irrational to us human beings," Heilig said.

He added that since AI

models are increasingly used to judge each other's work as companies develop new systems, this and similar effects could be passed on through multiple versions as he found in his testing.

His research, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, tested OpenAI's latest GPT models, from GPT-5 released in August to the very latest GPT-5.4.

After publishing details of a similar experiment in August, Heilig said he noticed GPT calling some of his specific test phrases a "literary experiment" suggesting someone at OpenAI had taken notice and modified the chatbot to recognise them.

- 'Ripe for exploitation' -

"This is a way in which AI can have its rational judgement short circuited," said Henry Shevlin, associate director of the University of Cambridge's Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, who was not involved in the research. □



British singer-songwriter Paul McCartney (C) arrives at Stella McCartney for the Women's Ready to Wear Fall/Winter 2026-2027 collection fashion show as part of the Paris Women Fashion Week, in Paris, on March 4, 2026.

Paul McCartney recalls Yesterday with first album in five years

London, United Kingdom

British pop legend and former Beatle Paul McCartney on Thursday released a new single and announced his first album in over five years, examining his life in Liverpool before global stardom.

The 83-year-old, one of the most successful artists of all time, announced the 14-track album titled "The Boys Of Dungeon Lane", taking listeners on a trip down memory lane in the northern English city.

It will include early adventures with his late bandmates George Harrison and John Lennon, prior to Beatles fame, according to the singer's website.

"The Boys of Dungeon Lane is his most introspective album to date and takes the listener back to where it all began," McCartney's website states.

McCartney named the album, which will be released on May 29, after Dungeon Lane, a place close to his childhood home in the Liverpool suburb of Speke.

It is referenced in the newly released single "Days We Left Behind", which the songwriter described as a "memory song" that inspired the album title.

The record will also feature new love songs and memories of life before the Beatles.

"I do often wonder if I'm just writing about the past but then I think how can you write about anything else?" McCartney said in a statement on his website. "It's just a lot of memories of Liverpool."

"We didn't have much at all but it didn't matter because all the people were great and you didn't notice you didn't have much."

The announcement comes ahead of two live performances in Los Angeles this weekend, his first since the November 2025 finale of his over three-year-long "Got Back Tour".

Formed in 1960, the Beatles McCartney, Lennon, Harrison and Ringo Starr went on to become the best-selling musical act of all time. □

A new chapter for 'town and gown': Princeton's \$50M pledge to its neighbors

PRINCETON, N.J. — In the hallowed halls of ivy-covered academia, the relationship between a world-class university and the municipality it calls home can often be described as a polite, yet distant, coexistence. However, a landmark announcement today has signaled a historic shift in that dynamic, as Princeton University and local officials unveiled a sweeping \$50 million voluntary contribution agreement.

The five-year deal, described by many as a "new era of collaboration," aims to bridge the gap between the university's global prestige and the local community's everyday needs. From stabilizing property taxes to funding climate-resiliency projects, the agreement marks one of the most significant "Town and Gown" partnerships in the history of American higher education.

Investing in the shared ground

The core of the agreement is a massive financial commitment to the Municipality of Princeton and the Princeton Public Schools. Unlike traditional property taxes—from which the university is largely exempt due to its non-profit status these voluntary contributions are designed to address the specific strains a large institution puts on local infrastructure.

"We are not just a university located in a town; we are a part of this town," said Princeton President Chris-



Students walk on campus at Princeton University on February 4, 2020 in Princeton, New Jersey.

topher L. Eisgruber during a joint meeting with municipal leaders. "Our success is intrinsically linked to the health, diversity, and vibrancy of the community that surrounds us. This agreement is a reflection of our shared values."

The \$50 million package includes direct cash contributions to the municipal budget, which local officials say will be used to offset the rising costs of public safety, road maintenance, and emergency services. For local residents, the most immediate impact may be felt in their wallets, as the influx of funds is expected to ease the tax burden on homeowners.

Supporting the next generation

A significant portion of the funding is earmarked for the Princeton Public Schools. As the town's population grows and the cost of living rises, the school district has faced increasing pressure to maintain its high academic standards while remaining inclusive.

The university's contribution will support the "Expanding Access" initiative, which focuses on providing resources for low-income students and enhancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs.

"This isn't just about balancing a budget," said a spokesperson for the school board.

"It's about ensuring that every child in this town, regardless of their background, has the same opportunities for excellence that the university represents."

A greener, more inclusive future

Beyond the balance sheets, the agreement outlines a shared commitment to two of the most pressing issues facing 21st-century municipalities: sustainability and diversity.

A dedicated "Innovation Fund" will be established to help the town meet its aggressive carbon-neutrality goals. This includes upgrading the local power grid to handle more renewable energy and investing in

electric public transit. Additionally, the university has pledged to work with local small businesses—particularly those owned by minorities and women—to ensure they have a seat at the table for university procurement contracts.

"Town and Gown relationships can often be transactional," noted Municipal Council President Mia Sacks. "What makes this different is the spirit of partnership. We are looking at long-term solutions for affordable housing and environmental justice together."

The national blueprint

While Princeton's wealth is unique, the challenges it shares with its neighbors are not. Across the United States, "university towns" are grappling with the tension between tax-exempt institutional growth and local affordability.

Experts believe this \$50 million pledge could serve as a blueprint for other Ivy League and private institutions. By proactively addressing community needs rather than waiting for legislative mandates, Princeton is positioning itself as a civic leader rather than just an academic one.

The road ahead

The agreement is set to begin in the next fiscal year, with a series of public forums planned to allow residents to weigh in on how the discretionary portions of the funds should be spent." □

U.S. Army raises maximum enlistment age to 42

Washington, United States

The U.S. Army has raised its maximum enlistment age from 35 to 42, aligning its recruitment policy with that of most other U.S. military branches.

The new rules allow individuals aged up to 42 to enlist in the U.S. Army, the National Guard and the Army Reserve, according to the 159-page regulation

published by the Army this month.

The change takes effect on April 20.

The Army previously raised the enlistment age to 42 in 2006, during the Iraq War, but lowered it back to 35 a decade later.

The Air Force and Navy already accept recruits up to age 40.

The Marine Corps sets the age limit for recruits at 28, but older candidates can enlist with special authorization.

The minimum enlistment age remains 17 with parental consent, or 18.

Under the new rules, the Army will also allow the enlistment of individuals with a single marijuana-related conviction. □



U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth looks on during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on March 26, 2026.

From cell block to corner office: The man who bought the prison that held him

In a nation where the "revolving door" of the justice system often feels impossible to stop, Kerwin Pittman is not just stepping out of the cycle he is rebuilding the door entirely.

Pittman, a man who once spent over 11 years behind bars, has achieved a feat that is believed to be a historic first in the United States. He has officially purchased a former correctional facility with the intent of transforming a place once synonymous with confinement into a sanctuary of opportunity.

The acquisition marks a radical shift in how the country views the life cycle of justice and property. For Pittman, the purchase is deeply personal. For the community, it represents a bold new blueprint for rehabilitation.

A transformation of space

The facility, which once housed hundreds of men in cramped cells and behind barbed-wire fences, is slated for a massive overhaul. Pittman's vision is to create an anti-recidivism campus, a comprehensive "one-stop-shop" designed to catch those falling through the cracks of the parole system.

"The architecture of a prison is designed to break you



Kerwin Pittman photographed in 2022 Credit: Photo by Wilson

down," Pittman said during a recent walkthrough of the site. "We are going to take those same walls and use them to build people up. Where there were locks, there will be keys to new apartments. Where there were guard towers, there will be classrooms."

The planned campus will feature three primary pillars: transitional housing, vocational training, and mental health advocacy. By housing these services under one roof, Pittman aims to eliminate the "transportation and navigation" hurdles that often lead for-

merly incarcerated individuals to fail within their first 90 days of release.

Breaking the cycle

The statistics on recidivism in the U.S. are sobering. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, nearly 65% of released prisoners are re-arrested within three years. Common culprits include a lack of stable housing and the "felon" label that acts as a barrier to meaningful employment.

Pittman's project addresses these head-on. The campus will partner with local trade unions to provide

certifications in plumbing, electrical work, and green energy technology. By the time a resident leaves the campus, the goal is for them to have a signed job offer and a rental history.

"We aren't just giving them a bed," says Sarah Jenkins, a local social worker who has joined Pittman's advisory board. "We are giving them a resume and a sense of belonging. You can't expect someone to thrive if they are constantly treated like a threat. Here, they are treated like neighbors."

A historic milestone

While "prison-to-school" pipelines and the repurposing of old jails into boutique hotels or lofts have occurred in other states, Pittman's ownership is what makes this story unique. He is the first formerly incarcerated person to lead such a massive reclamation of carceral space.

Advocates say the symbolism is as important as the service. Seeing a man who once wore a jumpsuit now holding the deed to the building sends a powerful message to those currently serving time: the past does not have to be a life sentence.

The project has garnered support from both sides of the political aisle. Fiscal conservatives see it as a way to reduce the taxpayer burden of incarceration, while social justice advocates see it as a necessary step toward restorative justice.

The road ahead

The renovation process will be long. Removing the industrial-grade steel doors and retrofitting the plumbing for residential use will cost millions. However, Pittman has already secured a mix of private grants and community crowdfunding to begin Phase One. □

Oscars to leave Hollywood in 2029: Academy

Los Angeles, United States

The Oscars will leave Hollywood after celebrating their centenary, organizers said Thursday, as they announced a long-term deal to hold the gala in central Los Angeles. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said the ceremony, the most important night of the year for the global film industry, would leave the Dolby Theatre on the Hollywood Walk of Fame after 2028.

The 2029 edition will instead be held at The Peacock Theater, part of the vast LA LIVE complex, next to the Crypto.com Arena, home to the Los Angeles Lakers. "For the 101st Oscars and



Paul Thomas Anderson, winner of the Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director and Best Picture Awards for "One Battle After Another", poses in the press room during the 98th Oscars at Dolby Theatre on March 15, 2026 in Hollywood, California.

beyond, the Academy looks forward to closely collaborating with (owners) AEG to make LA LIVE the perfect backdrop for our global celebration of cinema, both for our live in-theater audience and for film fans around the world," Academy CEO Bill Kramer and President Lynette Howell Taylor said.

The 10-year deal with AEG comes as the ceremony leaves network television in the United States, to be broadcast instead worldwide by YouTube.

It also marks an end to a decades-long run for the ceremony at the Dolby, which is just a stone's throw

from the Roosevelt Hotel, where the very first Oscars were handed out in 1929. While Hollywood is synonymous with the Oscars, the ceremony has not always been held there.

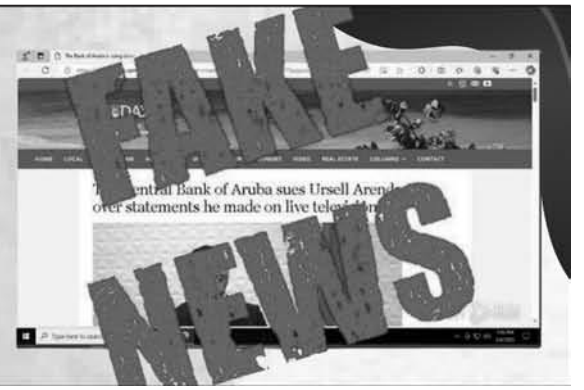
Stars have previously descended on a number of venues in the Downtown area, and for much of the 1960s, the ceremony was hosted in the beachside city of Santa Monica.

At this year's awards, held on March 15, Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" a wild tale of leftist revolutionaries, white supremacists and immigrant detention centers was crowned as best picture. □

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Somalia football slowly becomes a women's game

Mogadishu, Somalia

Hundreds of Somali spectators cheered as they watched two teams of young women play football in a Mogadishu stadium an unimaginable scene in the conservative, conflict-hit country just a few years ago.

Such events were heavily threatened until recently in Somalia's capital by the Al-Qaeda-affiliated militant group Al-Shabaab, which frowns on entertainment like football, especially when played by women.

But while Al-Shabaab still has a powerful grip behind the scenes in Mogadishu, the security situation has markedly improved.

At Tuesday's match, the main stand was mostly segregated but nonetheless included some men and women sitting together.

The Ilays women's team ultimately crushed their opponents Nasiib 5-0, but that did not dampen the mood.

"If you were in Mogadishu a couple of years ago, an occasion like this, with two



Football players of the U17 Somalia national team take part in a practice session at the Eng. Yariisow Stadium in Mogadishu on February 17, 2026, as the team continues to train despite criticism from some religious conservatives who view women's football as 'un-Islamic'.

girls' football clubs playing, would not have been possible... but with time, things are improving," said Ali Muhidin, one of the spectators.

The women's football championship was created in 2024, and initially in-

volved only 80 players. But barely two years later, 600 are participating across 10 teams mostly from Mogadishu, but also other parts of the country.

"No one could have imagined that one day Somali women would play football in their country, where

even men were forbidden to play by fighters who had declared football 'un-Islamic'," said Ali Abdi Mohamed, president of the Somali Football Federation. "But something we couldn't even dream of has become a reality," he told AFP.

Not everyone in the largely conservative Muslim country allows their daughters to play, he conceded, but they have faced no serious complaints.

Somalis have long been passionate fans of European football, but local teams have been neglected. Somalia is currently ranked 200th in the FIFA men's rankings, ahead of only a handful of microstates.

Its women's team, which played its first friendly match in October in Djibouti, is not listed by the international federation.

But this should change soon, as the "Ocean Queens" are preparing for their first-ever international tournament an under-17s event in May in Tanzania.

"For women to play football is not shameful or taboo," said Ramas Abdi Salah, midfielder for the Ocean Queens, who, like her teammates, wears thick tights and a long-sleeved shirt under her sports kit, as well as a black headscarf to cover her hair. □

'Hero' Australian dog who saved 100 koalas retires

Sydney, Australia

An Australian dog credited with saving over 100 koalas from bushfires is retiring after a decade of service.

Bear, an 11-year-old Australian Koolie, was one of the first dogs in the country to be trained on the scent of koala fur.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare called using dogs to detect koalas a "novel" approach.

"No one knew if it could be done," IFAW head of programmes Josey Sharrad wrote in a statement about Bear on Monday.

As a pup, the four-legged hero's boundless energy made it tough to stay indoors, but he found his true potential in the bush.

"He literally went from chewing the walls of a Gold Coast apartment to roaming through the Aussie bush on a mission to save our most iconic species," Sharrad said.

Bear's skills saved over 100 koalas as the Black Summer bushfires raged across Australia's eastern seaboard from late 2019 to early 2020, razing millions of hectares, destroying thousands of homes and blanketing cities in noxious smoke.

The tail-wagging detective with a "joyful and goofy" personality retires with an extensive list of accolades -- including an Animal of the Year award and Puppy Tales Photos Australian Dog of the Year award.

He also features in a "dogumentary" called "Bear: Koala Hero", and in a book, "Bear to the Rescue".

Bear will embark on a slower-paced chapter on the Sunshine Coast with one of his former handlers, getting belly rubs and playing his favourite game, fetch. □



This handout picture taken on September 15, 2019 and released by the International Fund for Animal Welfare on March 25, 2026 shows dog handler Riana Gardiner unloading Bear, an Australian koolie, from the cargo area of her transport vehicle in the New South Wales town of Bangalow.

Dirty diapers born again in Japan recycling breakthrough

Shibushi, Japan

Billions of dirty diapers end up buried or burned every year in Japan – more from seniors than babies – but a recycling breakthrough has given them a new lease of life, one hot mess at a time. A pilot project, billed as a world first, reuses the main ingredient in nappies to make new ones, offering hopes to ease bloated landfill sites and respond to a growing need for adult diapers in ageing Japan.

“Demand for baby diapers is falling. But a growing number of elderly people wear diapers, and more recently, even pets do too,” Takahisa Takahara, president of Japanese hygiene product maker Unicharm, the firm behind the new initiative, told AFP. “If we can transform the sense of guilt ordinary consumers may feel about using disposable products into something positive, and make using recycled products the norm in society, it will become economically viable,” he said.

Unicharm is testing the scheme in two pioneering southern Japanese municipalities, Shibushi and Osaki, which recycle 80 percent of household waste



This picture taken on January 15, 2026 shows recycled diapers in a recycling facility in Osaki town, Kagoshima Prefecture.

four times the Japanese average. The two localities, home to about 40,000 people, decided to take radical action around 25 years ago after predictions that their communal rubbish dump would be full by 2004.

Now, the landfill site will stay open for another four decades.

In 2024, diapers were included in the recycling drive, with residents required to write their names on designated bin bags.

“Ultimately, our top priority is to reduce our trash and extend the life of the landfill,” Shibushi environment official Kenichi Matsunaga told AFP.

- Nappy ending -

The collected diapers are shredded, washed and separated into pulp, plastic and super-absorbent polymer (SAP).

Unicharm has been able to recycle these materials into products with less rigorous sanitary requirements, like

toilet paper.

It has also achieved the breakthrough of managing to use the pulp, which makes up the bulk of a diaper, to make new ones.

The process follows a special ozone treatment for sterilisation, bleaching and deodorisation.

By 2028, Unicharm aims to recycle the plastic and absorbent polymer from soiled diapers to make new ones as well, Tsutomu Kido, senior executive officer of Unicharm's recycling business,

told AFP.

For now, its recycled products are on sale only in some local stores, priced around 10 percent higher than those with fresh raw materials, or distributed to selected child-care and senior care centres.

The company is also testing a method to cut the amount of water in the recycling process, and aims to team up with 20 municipalities by 2035 to recycle their diapers.

- Ageing nation -

Japan has a poor recycling rate, reusing not even 20 percent of municipal waste, according to the National Institute for Environmental Studies. That compares to 67 percent in Germany, 44 percent in Britain and around 32 percent in the United States. Waste per capita, however, is less than two-thirds the OECD average a typical American throws almost three times more.

Japan does relatively well on generating electricity by incinerating trash, too.

In the ageing nation, home to almost 100,000 people over 100, diapers and related products are used more by seniors than babies. □

‘True miracle’: Napoleon’s long-lost hat to go on display

Chantilly, France

A newly discovered hat believed to have been worn by Napoleon Bonaparte during his exile on the island of Saint Helena is set to go on display outside Paris later this year, historians said on Thursday.

The black felt bicorne was presented to the media on Thursday and will be exhibited at the Chateau de Chantilly, north of Paris, later in the year.

Mathieu Deldicque, director of the Conde Museum, where the headdress will go on display, said the find was a “true miracle”, stressing that all of its parts were well preserved.

“This hat is a revelation,” he said. “We know every stage of its history, from Napoleon’s exile on Saint Helena right up to the present day.” Jean-Guillaume Parich of

the Army Museum, who confirmed the beaver felt hat’s authenticity, said it was one of the four headpieces taken by the deposed emperor into his final exile on the island of Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean.

“There are even some rather moving, rather touching details – namely, its silk lining shows clear signs of perspiration,” he said.

“One can really picture the emperor in his final years.” In his will, written shortly before

his death in 1821, Napoleon left several imperial keepsakes including two of his last hats to his son, the King of Rome.

But the gifts never reached Napoleon II, who died of a lung infection in 1832.

The imperial estate, brought back from Saint Helena, was awarded in 1836 to Napoleon’s sister Caroline Murat. The hat eventually entered the Conde Museum collections in 1904.

But it was quickly placed in the storeroom and was for a long time “unknown to all specialists and enthusiasts of the Napoleonic era,” said Deldicque.

It was only in 2025, while preparing an exhibition, that Parich managed to trace the hat’s journey and confirm its authenticity.

Made by Poupard, Napoleon’s official hatmaker,

the headpiece displays all the hallmark features of an authentic imperial bicorne, including its distinctive proportions, a small tricolour cockade, and a silk-taffeta lining, Parich said.

Napoleon is believed to have ordered between 60 and 80 such hats, he said.

Unlike most other officers at the time, Napoleon wore his hat sideways, which gave him a distinct silhouette easily recognised by his troops in battle.

Around 15 of such hats have been fully authenticated, most of them now held in museum collections, said Parich.

The newly authenticated hat will serve as the centrepiece of an exhibition devoted to the art collections of Napoleon’s sister, opening in early June. □



This photograph shows a bicorne hat recently authenticated as worn by French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte during a press preview in the library of the Chateau de Chantilly, northern France, on March 26, 2026.

Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.



Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area

of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Here is where you will find most of the action for surf-

ers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □





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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some

common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"



The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened

"tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the

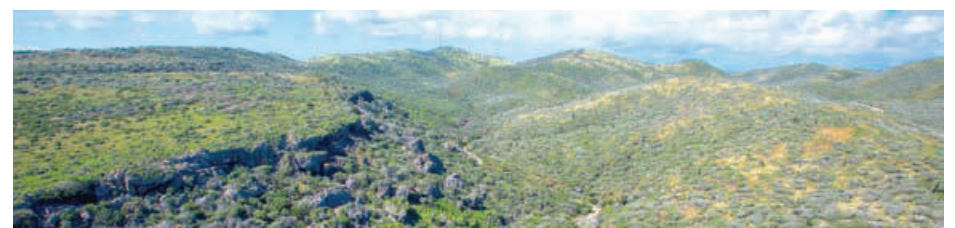
night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill



176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near

Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



Aruba's kite flying tradition

(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions,

brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day.

These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour,



water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and

children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest. In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.

*Mondi: Aruban woods. □

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat

pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondon-go (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead,

the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake),



quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the

side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it



is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before

nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" round-

about on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy

(hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



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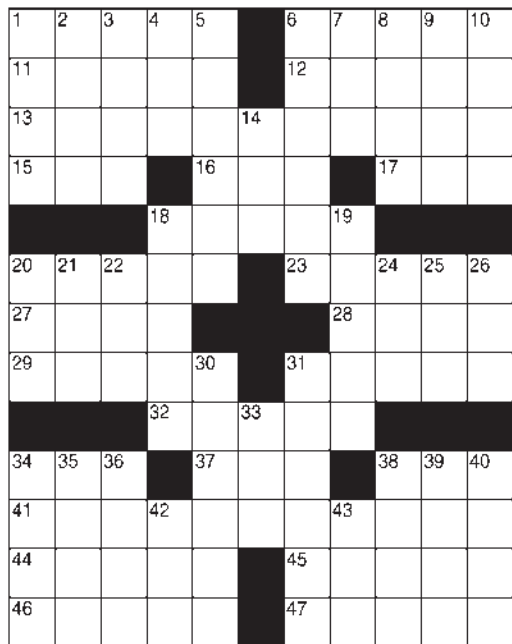
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Tokyo's nation
- 6 Houston player
- 11 Find darling
- 12 "Over There!" writer
- 13 Bette Davis film
- 15 CPR expert
- 16 Star pitcher
- 17 Writer Stout
- 18 Skilled
- 20 City square
- 23 Western resort lake
- 27 Compass point
- 28 Solitary
- 29 Church areas
- 31 Star in Orion
- 32 Winter quaff
- 34 Atlas page
- 37 Unruly group
- 38 London weather
- 41 Bette Davis film
- 44 Shoplifted
- 45 Work byproduct
- 46 Castle part
- 47 Bridge costs

DOWN

- 1 Green stone
- 2 First person
- 3 Cruise stop
- 4 Bible vessel
- 5 Utah neighbor
- 6 Agree to
- 7 Lush
- 8 Role for Chris Hems-worth
- 9 Quite un-common
- 10 Cameo stone
- 14 Bar rocks
- 18 Ancient Mexican
- 19 Shire of "Rocky"
- 20 Stew sphere
- 21 Trip around a track
- 22 Cart puller
- 24 Sty resident
- 25 Low bill
- 26 Sushi choice
- 30 Grave
- 31 Hearty
- 33 Pigeon sound
- 34 Schooner pole
- 35 Singing voice
- 36 Work the fields
- 38 Sense
- 39 Egg outline
- 40 Under-stands
- 42 Bar order
- 43 Binary base



4-11

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

PWC FVOO WYA NCYGDAG

ZADLAYS WX SNA ONWSO

PWC GWY'S SREA. — URPYA

HDASJEP

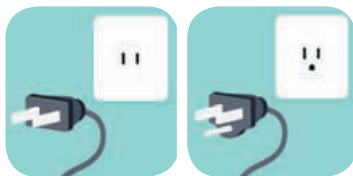
Cryptoquote: THE ONLY
DEPENDABLE LAW OF LIFE: EVERYTHING IS
ALWAYS WORSE THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE. — DOROTHY PARKER

Cruise ship Schedule: March 23 - 31 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	23	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	24	NORWEGIAN SKY	13.30	22.30	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	25	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	REGAL PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
MON	30	EXPLORA II	09.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	31	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		AIDABLU	11.30	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	13.30	22.30	I	1
		FREEWINDS	09.30	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	1		4			2		8
		7		1				
			8	9		7		
					1		8	4
2			5			6		
					9			5
	7	9					4	
3					2		6	
1	4		6			5	9	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

3/27

Answer to previous puzzle

6	2	5	1	9	8	7	3	4
7	1	9	4	3	2	8	6	5
8	3	4	5	7	6	1	2	9
3	8	6	2	1	4	9	5	7
4	9	7	8	5	3	2	1	6
1	5	2	7	6	9	3	4	8
2	4	1	9	8	5	6	7	3
5	6	8	3	2	7	4	9	1
9	7	3	6	4	1	5	8	2

Difficulty: ★★★

3/26

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Lost in space: Sperm struggles to navigate during weightless sex



Spermatozoons are seen through a microscope at the Centre for the Study and Conservation of Human Eggs and Sperm (Centres d'étude et de conservation des œufs et du sperme humains - CECOS) at the university hospital (CHU) of Rennes, western France, on March 12, 2024.

Paris, France

Scientists have used a tiny plastic "obstacle course" to test how much sperm would struggle to navigate during sex in the weightlessness of space. Some particularly resilient sperm still made it through the course, suggesting that conceiving children in space will still be possible, according to research published on Thursday. However a bigger problem could be that the development of embryos after fertilisation was harmed by a lack of gravity, the Australian team of researchers found. With humanity setting its eyes on colonising space - next week NASA hopes to launch its first crewed mission around the Moon in half a century -- scientists

have been studying how difficult it will be to procreate on spaceships or other worlds.

One of the biggest challenges is that sperm will no longer be pulled downwards by Earth's gravity. "Sperm need to actively find their way to an egg, and this study is the first to put that ability to the test under space-like conditions," Nicole McPherson, a researcher at Adelaide University in Australia, told AFP. The scientists used a plastic chamber that resembles the female reproductive tract to act as a "miniature obstacle course", the senior author of the new study said. "Think of it as a tiny race track... sperm are intro-

duced at one end and have to swim their way through to the other."

Filtering out weak runners

Both human and mice sperm were sent down the course, which was inside a device that uses constant rotation to simulate the microgravity of space. The sperm was about 50 percent worse at navigating through the course compared to how they perform under Earth's gravity. This worked out to be roughly a 30-percent drop in successful fertilisation, according to the study in the journal Communications Biology. □

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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Avianca	588 0059
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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
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Violence Against Women

Mohamed Salah would be 'asset' says San Diego FC owner

Atlanta, United States

San Diego FC's billionaire owner Mohamed Mansour on Thursday said his Egyptian compatriot Mohamed Salah would be an "asset," as speculation builds over the Liverpool forward's next club.

Superstar Salah announced this week he will leave Anfield at the end of the season after a glittering nine-year spell at Liverpool, where he has scored 255 goals and stands alongside the all-time greats.

While Saudi Arabia is thought to be the most likely destination, Salah could choose to follow the likes of Lionel Messi, Son Heung-min and Antoine Griezmann to the United States' burgeoning Major League Soccer.

If he does, recent MLS expansion club San Diego FC which reached the play-off semi-finals in its debut season last year has been heavily linked with Salah, not least due to deep-pocketed British-Egyptian owner Mansour.

"He's probably one of the great players today. And



Liverpool's Egyptian forward #11 Mohamed Salah shoots from the penalty spot during the UEFA Champions League, round of 16 second leg football match between Liverpool and Galatasaray at Anfield in Liverpool, north-west England on March 18, 2026.

any team that will get him, or any country that will get him, he will definitely be an asset," Mansour told AFP Thursday, on the sidelines of the Business of Soccer summit in Atlanta.

Mansour declined to answer whether he is actively trying to recruit Salah or has previously sounded out a move for the striker.

But he added: "Of course Mo Salah is somebody that, as an Egyptian, my origin, I'm very proud of. He is somebody that reached the world stage as one of the great players."

"And I think he will, if he does decide... wherever he will go, he will add a lot to that league and to that country and to that team for sure. So he's somebody

I'm very proud of."

Salah won two Premier League titles along with a Champions League and other silverware with Liverpool, as well as a record-equalling four Golden Boot awards.

He was the poster boy of Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool revolution at Anfield, propelling the team back to the summit of English and

European football, and is undoubtedly the greatest ever player to emerge from Egypt, or arguably Africa.

Mansour told a panel discussion that the whole of Egypt comes to a halt whenever Salah plays, and named the forward as his favorite footballer of all time.

Salah has endured an uncharacteristically difficult season at Liverpool, scoring just five league goals, and telling reporters in December that he had been "thrown under the bus" by the club after a dramatic dip in form meant he was benched.

- 'Opportunity' -

While effusive in his praise for Salah, Mansour insisted that footballing recruitment decisions are left to San Diego FC's sports director and coach.

"I let the people in charge" decide, he told AFP.

"I just say, 'I got this opportunity. My belief is so. You guys make the decision. Come back to me.' If you say, 'No, he's not (a) fit,' whoever it is, in whichever sector, then that's it." □



Jamal Murray #27 of the Denver Nuggets controls the ball against the Dallas Mavericks in the third quarter at Ball Arena on March 25, 2026 in Denver, Colorado.

Los Angeles, United States

Denver's Jamal Murray scored 53 points and teammate Nikola Jokic added a monster triple-double as the Nuggets topped the Dallas Mavericks 142-135 on Wednesday.

Murray posted his second 50-point game of the season and three-time NBA Most Valuable Player Jokic added 23 points, 21 rebounds and 19 assists.

Denver led by as many

as 13 in the third quarter, but the Mavs pulled within one, at 127-126, with 4:20 left to play.

Jokic made a floater, Peyton Watson and Murray drilled three-pointers and the Nuggets pulled away again to hand the Mavs led by rookie Cooper Flagg's 26 points -- a fifth straight defeat.

The Nuggets remain neck and neck with the Min-

Murray's 53 points propel Nuggets over Mavs

nesota Timberwolves for fourth place in the Western Conference.

The Timberwolves overcame a 13-point deficit in overtime to beat the Houston Rockets 110-108.

Philadelphia 76ers stars Joel Embiid and Paul George made triumphant returns, combining for 63 points in the Sixers' 157-137 victory over the Bulls in Chicago.

Former NBA Most Valuable Player Embiid showed no sign of rust after missing 13 games with an oblique strain, scoring 35 points including 15 of the Sixers' first 19 as they seized control with a 38-point first quarter.

George, returning from a 25-game suspension for taking a medication that violated the league's anti-

drug program, took longer to warm up, scoring 23 of his 28 in the second half.

Embiid, who said the injury is still "really painful," added six rebounds and seven assists and the duo showed just how big a playoff threat the Sixers could be if both stay healthy.

They're seventh in the East, a fraction behind the Atlanta Hawks for sixth and the last direct entry spot to the playoffs.

The Hawks, with 27 points apiece from CJ McCollum and Jalen Johnson, downed Eastern Conference leaders Detroit 130-129 in overtime.

- Celtics silence Thunder - Western Conference leaders Oklahoma City also fell, their 12-game winning streak snapped by the Celtics in Boston.

Jaylen Brown scored 31

points and Jayson Tatum added 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who trailed by 13 in the first quarter.

Reigning MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points, making 10 of his 12 attempts from the field for the Thunder.

He handed out eight assists but had little scoring support as center Chet Holmgren scored just 10 points and Jalen Williams added seven.

"This is a big-time win for us," Brown said. "Obviously OKC is the hottest team in the league. We wanted to come out and show that we can play against anybody."

The Pistons, still without star Cade Cunningham as he recovers from a collapsed lung, stumbled at home. □

Sinner rips Tiafoe to reach Miami Open semis

Miami, United States

Jannik Sinner dominated Frances Tiafoe for a 6-2, 6-2 victory on Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Miami Open. The world number two from Italy, a four-time Grand Slam champion, cruised over the 19th-seeded American in one hour and 11 minutes at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

Sinner, hoping to complete a "Sunshine Double" with March titles at Miami and Indian Wells, stretched his ATP Masters 1000 set win streak to 30, having not dropped a set at the level since last October in Shanghai.

Sinner advanced to a semi-final against the winner of a later match between world number four Alexander



Frances Tiafoe of the United States serves against Jannik Sinner of Italy during their quarter final match on day 10 of the Miami Open at Hard Rock Stadium on March 26, 2026 in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Zverev of Germany and 19th-ranked Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina.

Tiafoe netted a backhand

to surrender a break to Sinner in the opening game of the match and the American swatted a forehand

long in the fifth game to hand Sinner a 4-1 edge. The Italian held twice to take the set in 31 minutes, Sinner

losing only four points on his serve in the set.

In the second set, Tiafoe saved a break point and held serve in the opening game but Sinner broke in the third for a 2-1 lead when the American netted a forehand.

Sinner broke again, this time at love for a 5-2 lead when Tiafoe smacked a forehand wide, and held to take the match, improving to 5-1 all-time against Tiafoe.

Sinner fired 33 winners against 15 unforced errors. In later women's semi-finals, world number one Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus faces second-ranked Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan and U.S. fourth seed Coco Gauff meets Czech 13th seed Carolina Muchova. □

Vernon wins wind-hit Tour of Catalonia stage as Pidcock climbs to second

Camprodon, Spain

British sprinter Ethan Vernon won stage four of the Tour of Catalonia on Thursday after a high wind warning in the mountains caused a hasty switch from a summit finish to a flat one.

Overall leader Dorian Godon of Ineos was outpaced to second place on the day, protecting his GC advantage, while Tom Pidcock was third and climbed to second overall.

"There was a massive headwind," Pidcock said. "So it wasn't as easy as all that. But third is good, a few bonus seconds, but it doesn't really matter does it."

Organisers scrapped the planned summit finish to Vallter 2000 because of an extreme wind warning, with riders instead trundling to the town of Camprodon for a bunch sprint. □



Team NSN Cycling Team's Welsh rider Ethan Vernon (2L) crosses the finish line in first place ahead of Team Ineos' French rider Dorian Godon (L) during the 4th stage of the 2026 Volta a Catalunya cycling tour of Catalonia, a 151 km race between Mataro and Camprodon, on March 26, 2026.

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Olympic women's sport to be limited to 'biological females'

Lausanne, Switzerland
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Thursday it was re-introducing testing for gender to determine eligibility to compete in the female category, preventing transgender women from competing. The screening will mean Olympic women's sports from the 2028 Los Angeles Games will be limited to biological females, which would also rule out those with differences in sexual development (DSD).

In a major shift of policy, the IOC is abandoning rules it brought in in 2021 which allowed individual federations to decide their own policy and is instead implementing a policy across all Olympic sports. "Eligibility for any female category event at the Olympic Games or any other IOC event, including individual and team sports,

is now limited to biological females, determined on the basis of a one-time SRY gene screening," the IOC said in a statement. They will be carried out through a saliva sample, cheek swab or blood sam-

ple. IOC president Kirsty Coventry said: "The policy we have announced is based on science and has been led by medical experts. "At the Olympic Games even the smallest margins

can be the difference between victory and defeat. "So it is absolutely clear that it would not be fair for biological males to compete in the female category. In addition, in some sports it would simply not

be safe." In a press conference later, Coventry added: "I do feel that this policy is a policy that is supporting equality and fairness and the protection of the safety on the field of play."

- Removes potential Trump clash -
The new policy removes a potential source of conflict between the IOC and US President Donald Trump as the Los Angeles Olympics comes onto the horizon. Trump issued an executive order banning transgender athletes from women's sport soon after he came to office. While sports such as swimming, athletics, cycling and rowing have brought in bans, many others have permitted transgender women to compete in the female category if they lowered their testosterone levels, normally through taking a course of drugs.☐



This general view from Place du Trocadero shows the Olympic rings on The Eiffel Tower in Paris on September 6, 2024.